

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets, the ballistic wall comprising:

a first metal plate having an edge, a plurality of holes formed adjacent the edge, and a plurality of slots connecting the holes to the edge;

a second metal plate having an edge and a plurality of holes formed adjacent the edge;

a facing strip having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate and the plurality of holes in the second metal plate;

a first plurality of bolts and nuts ~~for~~ attaching the facing strip to the metal plates by extending through the holes in the facing strip and the plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate; and

a second plurality of bolts and nuts ~~for~~ attaching the facing strip to the metal plates by extending through the holes in the facing strip and the and the plurality of holes formed in the second metal plate;

a bullet containment frame attached to the facing strip; and

a mounting bracket ~~for~~ connecting the bullet containment frame to the facing strip, the mounting bracket having a generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel, and wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a support post which fits within the channel.

2. (Previously Presented) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, further comprising a backing strip disposed on a side of the metal plates opposite the facing strip and having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate and the plurality of holes form in the second metal plate.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, wherein the bolt extends through the mounting bracket, but not into the bullet containment frame.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, wherein the support post is attached to the mounting bracket by screws.

8. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets comprising:
two pieces of plate steel;
a facing strip ~~configured~~ disposed to clamp against the two pieces of plate steel and hold the two pieces of plate steel together;
a mounting bracket ~~for~~ holding a bullet containment frame to the facing strip;
a plurality of bolts and nuts, the bolts extending through the mounting bracket and the facing strip; and
a bullet containment frame attached to the mounting bracket , the bullet containment frame and at least a portion of the mounting bracket being disposed in front of the facing strip and two pieces of plate steel so that a bullet passes through the bullet containment frame prior to impacting one of the two pieces of steel plate and, wherein at least some of the plurality of bolts do not hold the bullet containment frame to the mounting bracket.

13. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a wood post, and wherein the wood post is fastened to the mounting bracket.

14. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket is made of metal, and wherein the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket by a fastener which has been driven through the mounting bracket.

15. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket has holes formed ~~therein for receiving a fastener~~ , the holes receiving fasteners to fasten the mounting bracket to the wood post.

16. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the post is unmilled.

17. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket comprises at least one arm extending away from the two pieces of plate steel.

18. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally U-shaped cross-section.

19. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally L-shaped recess ~~for receiving~~ and holds a support post of the bullet containment frame.

20. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 19, wherein the facing strip has an L-shaped cross-section.

21. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall comprising;

- a first piece of steel plate having an edge;
- a second piece of steel plate having an edge disposed adjacent the edge of the first piece of steel plate;
- a facing strip disposed so as to cover one side of said edges of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate;
- a backing strip disposed so as to cover said edges of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate on a side opposite the facing strip;
- at least one arm connected to the facing strip and extending away from the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate; and
- a bullet containment frame attached to the at least one arm by a plurality of fasteners, the bullet containment frame comprising sheets of material spaced apart from the first piece of plate steel and second piece of plate steel and positioned in front of the first piece of plate steel and the second piece of plate steel to contain bullets ricocheting off the first piece of plate steel and the second piece of plate steel.

22. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein the at least one arm is a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip.

23. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip has a generally U-shaped cross-section so as to form a support structure, the generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel.

24. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 23, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a post which is at least partially disposed in the channel.

25. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, wherein the post is a standard, unmilled post.

26. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, further comprising fasteners ~~for~~ , the fasteners holding the post at least partially in the channel and wherein a plurality of holes are formed in the at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip ~~for~~ , the holes receiving the fasteners.

27. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall having a pair of adjacent metal plates having adjacent edges and a facing strip covering the adjacent edges and attached to the metal plates by an attachment mechanism, wherein the improvement comprises:

a wood post attached to the facing strip such that the wood post covers the attachment mechanism, the attachment mechanism being disposed so that it does not extend through the wood post; and

wherein the wood post is attached to the attachment mechanism by at least one intervening structure.

37. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 36, wherein the attachment mechanism is a plurality of bolts and wherein all of the bolts are disposed behind the wood post to thereby protect the bolts from being impacted by bullets.

38. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall having a pair of adjacent metal plates having adjacent edges and a facing strip covering the adjacent edges and attached to the metal plates by an attachment mechanism, wherein the improvement comprises:

a wood post attached to the facing strip such that the wood post completely covers the attachment mechanism;

wherein the attachment mechanism is a plurality of bolts and wherein all of the bolts are disposed behind the wood post to thereby protect the bolts from being impacted by bullets; and

~~wherein the bolts hold~~ a mounting bracket, wherein the bolts hold the mounting bracket to the facing strip and the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket independent of the bolts.

39. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall having metal plates joined together by a facing strip and covered by a bullet containment frame disposed in front of the facing strip and metal plates, characterized in that bolts attaching the facing strip to the metal plates do not extend into the bullet containment frame.

40.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Original) A modular wall for stopping bullets, the wall comprising:

a plurality of steel plates attached together by a facing strip;

a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip; and

a plurality of sheets of material for inhibiting ricocheting of bullets impacting the plates;

wherein the mounting bracket spaces the plurality of sheets from the facing strip.

51. (Original) The modular wall of claim 50, wherein a bullet deceleration medium is disposed between a portion of the mounting bracket and the facing strip.

52. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises gravel.

53. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises chopped rubber.

54. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, wherein the second plate ~~plate~~ comprises a plurality of slots connecting the holes to the edge.

55. (Previously Presented) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 38, wherein the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket by screws.

56. (Previously Presented) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 38, wherein the mounting bracket forms a generally L-shaped recess for receiving at least one the wood post.